



# THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the  
**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

January – March 2006

## History In The Making



On February 28, 2006, approximately two hundred volunteer firefighters from across the State came to Montgomery to lobby for the Volunteer Fire Service Legislation. As a result, the Rules Chairman and Speaker of the House agreed to put all of the volunteer fire bills on a special order calendar for the House of Representatives. These bills passed and were transmitted to the Senate.

To date, most of these bills have passed through committees in the Senate. Although it is our goal to get these bills on a special order

calendar in the Senate, the earliest possible date is April 4th. The outcome of the volunteer fire legislation will be reported in the next issue.

A special thank you is extended to everyone who came to Montgomery to stand up for the volunteer firefighters. Of special note, we would like to thank Jackson County's twenty-six (26) firefighters that made the trip to support your volunteer fire service legislation. Unfortunately, all of the firefighters do not appear within the photo taken on the steps of the Capitol.

# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Alberson*



**H**ave you ever given serious thought to the changes that have taken place in the fire service over the centuries? Unless you are a history buff, you probably never looked back on the first firefighters and the equipment they had.

The first fire pump was invented by the Greek physicist and inventor Ctesibus who lived from 285 to 222 BC. A group called the vigils was possibly the first fire department. They were formed by the Roman Emperor Augustus, and they protected the streets from both crime and fires. Someone in Europe reinvented the fire pump in the 1500s.

The great fire of London in 1666 brought about many changes in the organization of fire brigades. Insurance companies formed fire brigades to protect their clients. These fire brigades only responded to fires at buildings the companies insured.

Colonial law in North America required each house to have a bucket of water on the front steps. Fire brigades consisted of volunteers who lined up and tossed water at the fire. In 1654,

the city of Boston purchased a hand-pumped fire engine, and 25 years later, Boston created the first paid fire department in the colonies. In 1792, Richard Mason designed the Philadelphia-styled end stroke pumper, which became popular throughout the colonies. It was constructed of iron and wood and was about 4 feet tall and 6 feet long.

In 1829, John Braithwaite and John Ericson developed the first steam engine in England. These steam engines were very heavy and clumsy, but powerful. Bucket brigades, hand pumpers and heavy steam engines have given way to modern diesel engines. The development of aerial ladders and water towers grew as firefighters tried to keep pace with taller and taller buildings.

In the 1970s, fire prevention began to play a major role. Tough building codes, sprinkler systems, portable fire extinguishers, inspections, fire drills, exit signs and education have become the first line of defense for firefighting.

When we visit our fire stations today, it is really mind-boggling to even think how far we have come from the days of the bucket brigades to the modern day fire stations with their myriad pieces of apparatus and equipment.

## AAVFD Scholarships Available

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2006. This makes it possible for each of the winners to be recognized at their High School Graduation Ceremony.

In partnership with VFIS of Alabama, AAVFD will award four \$500 scholarships. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications and must be used within one year of award.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833 or [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org). The completed application should be mailed to the Montgomery office to the attention of Scholarship Chairman Roy Adamson and postmarked no later than March 31, 2006.



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We would like to thank the following fire departments for purchasing new Ferrara Fire Apparatus and Equipment from us with their 2005 FEMA grants. We look forward to helping the 2006 FEMA grant recipients with their future purchases.

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Alder Springs V. F. D.  
Asbury V. F. D.  
LaGrange V. F. D.  
Meeksville V. F. D  
Livingston Fire Dept.



### 1985 Pirsch Custom Pumper

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### 1987 Pierce Custom Pumper

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1500 GPM Pump/500 Gal. Poly Tank  
\$52,000.00



### 1980 E-One Custom Pumper

Diesel/Automatic  
1250 GPM Pump/1000 Gal. Alum. Tank  
\$28,000.00



### 1987 E-One Custom Pumper

Diesel/Automatic  
1250 GPM Pump/500 Gal. Alum. Tank  
\$48,000.00





# Alabama Leads Nation *in Number of Safer Grant Awards*

On October 27, 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the grant awardees of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program for FY 2005. Nationally, 22 departments received grants for hiring firefighters totaling \$7,717,095. Alabama received the largest allocation in the Nation with two awards totaling \$1.3 million.

The purpose of the SAFER program is to award grants to volunteer and career fire departments to help increase the size of the department and to enable the fire departments to conduct 24-hour staffing in order to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Congratulations to our fire departments that competed in this process!

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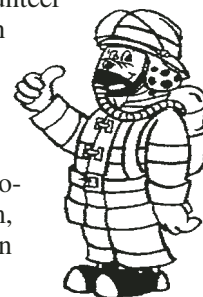
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## 2006 Membership Dues

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments is an organization dedicated to address the needs of the volunteer fire service of Alabama. AAVFD has done this through its many programs, including a fire prevention grant program, an AD&D insurance program, the legislation process and just plain looking after the welfare and concerns of volunteer firefighters.



With membership in AAVFD, your voice will be heard, and the needs of the volunteer fire service will be addressed. Fire department membership notices for the year 2006 were mailed out on October 3rd. If your department joins through the county association, the notice was sent to the county president. Annual Membership dues are payable January 1, 2006.

If you are not a member, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833 for information. If you do not belong to a member department, associate membership is available to anyone who is interested in the purposes, goals and activities of AAVFD. Associate membership affords you the same benefits as regular membership, except the right to vote.



**On the Web at:  
[www.NCRC.info](http://www.NCRC.info)**

THE  
**SOUTHEASTERN REGION**  
of the  
National Cave Rescue Commission, NSS  
presents  
**A Regional Cave Rescue  
Operations and Management Seminar**  
**June 16 – June 24, 2006**  
at  
Union Hill School  
Somerville, Alabama  
(same location as the 2005 NCRC National Weeklong)

With the cooperation and assistance of:  
**The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit**

### About the Seminar

This seminar consists of extensive classroom and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue including underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, medical management, communication systems, and the organization and management of cave rescue operations. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency service personnel, and emergency managers.

The seminar provides approximately 100 hours of instruction over eight days. Its classes are physically strenuous and participants must be in good physical health. Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations, both above and below ground. Each student must demonstrate his or her ability to ascend (a rope) 25 meters, change over, and rappel part way down, tie off a descender, correct a jammed descender, then rappel safely to the ground as part of initial check-in skills. Level 3 students must demonstrate additional skills.

### Courses Offered

**LEVEL 1** teaches current cave rescue and emergency management techniques, and provides instruction in caving, basic rope work, litter rigging and transport, and incident command systems. It is specifically designed to meet the various needs of agency personnel with little or no cave-related experience, and cavers with little or no rescue or medical experience. Level 1 prepares the student to function as a cave rescue task force member.

**LEVEL 2** prepares students to function as cave rescue task force leaders. **Participants in Level 2 must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 1 course within the past four years.** The Level 2 curriculum assumes that students have learned, retained and practiced the skills taught in Level 1. Students are taught more advanced techniques in medical management, vertical and horizontal rescue, team leadership and incident management.

**LEVEL 3** is designed to challenge and fine-tune students' technical and management skills. **Participants in Level 3 must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 2 course within the past four years, and will be expected to demonstrate retention of their skills as a condition of participation.** Most sessions will be practical field exercises focused on crack and crevice rescue, technical rigging, water problems, and difficult litter handling situations, with an emphasis on small group scenarios and innovation. Classroom instruction will emphasize upper-level incident management. Throughout the week student teams will be presented with a variety of cave rescue problems and be expected to solve them with the assistance and supervision of the instructors.

### REGISTRATION FEES

**REGISTRATION (includes all meals and camping) \$410.00**  
**NSS Membership Discount - \$35.00** (for members of the National Speleological Society)

**Mail Registration & Fees  
To:**

**If you have questions about the seminar or for a registration form please contact:**  
Kevin Smith, Registrar  
Phone: 256-653-2588  
e-mail: [ksmith@dyerandsmith.com](mailto:ksmith@dyerandsmith.com)  
Tim White, Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Phone: 256-508-1908  
e-mail: [southeast@ncrc.info](mailto:southeast@ncrc.info)

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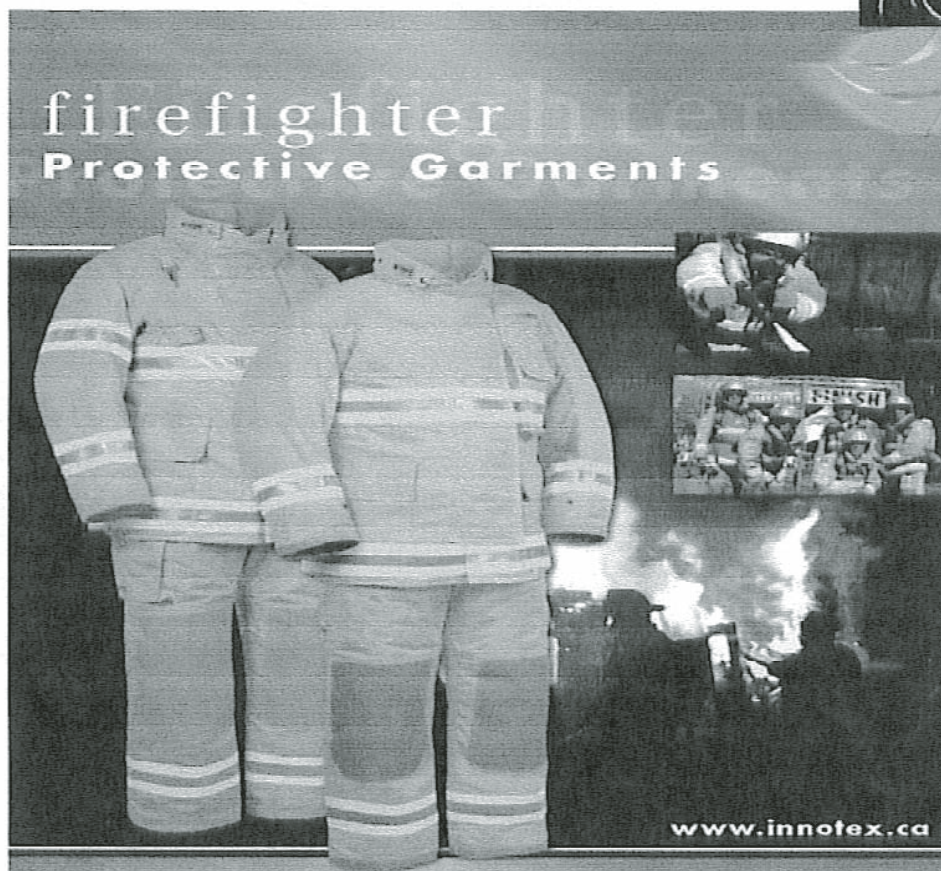
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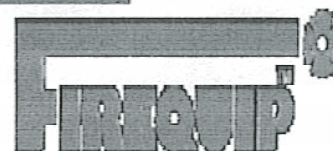
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# 2006 AAVFD Membership – Total 879

## DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		6 of 13
CHEROKEE		1 of 13
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON	100%	17 of 17
MARSHALL	100%	18 of 18

## DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT	100%	21 of 21
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON		18 of 31
SHELBY		9 of 22
ST CLAIR		0 of 22
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON	100%	11 of 11

## DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		1 of 13
GREENE		12 of 13
HALE		9 of 9
LAMAR	100%	10 of 10
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	20 of 20

## DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	12 of 12
CLAY	100%	18 of 18
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA	100%	10 of 10
RANDOLPH	100%	18 of 18
TALLADEGA		3 of 15
TALLAPOOSA	100%	13 of 13

## DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA		0 of 10
BIBB	100%	10 of 10
CHILTON	100%	15 of 15
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO	100%	11 of 11
PERRY	100%	11 of 11
WILCOX	100%	9 of 9

## DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR	100%	11 of 11
COFFEE	100%	9 of 9
DALE	100%	13 of 13
GENEVA	100%	10 of 10
HENRY	100%	6 of 6
HOUSTON	100%	17 of 17
PIKE	100%	9 of 9

## DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER	100%	16 of 16
CONECUH	100%	21 of 21
COVINGTON	100%	20 of 20
CRENSHAW	100%	12 of 12
ESCAMBIA	100%	22 of 22
MONROE	100%	15 of 15

## DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		15 of 33
CHOCTAW	100%	14 of 14
CLARKE	100%	13 of 13
MOBILE	100%	19 of 19
WASHINGTON	100%	19 of 19

## DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

COLBERT	100%	13 of 13
FRANKLIN	100%	12 of 12
LAUDERDALE	100%	14 of 14
LAWRENCE	100%	11 of 11
LIMESTONE	100%	13 of 13
MARION	100%	12 of 12
MORGAN	100%	22 of 22

## DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK	100%	7 of 7
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE	100%	7 of 7
LOWNDES		1 of 8
MACON		1 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11



## FIRE RESCUE COST RECOVERY SERVICES

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*Fire Rescue Cost Recovery has made a difference in our department. Through the Fire Rescue Help Group's efforts they have helped us recover some of the cost associated with our fire calls. With the cost of fuel, tires, and other equipment, cost recovery has been a big help to our department. I wish I had known about them sooner.*

Larry Simons  
Fosters Crossroads VFD

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### Reimbursements obtained for:

- Vehicle fires
- Structure fires
- MVA incidents
- Extrication response

*As a result of our partnership with the Fire Rescue Help Group, we have received significant reimbursements for the many responses we make on I-65. This helps us replace the equipment used, so we are ready to help the people in our community. I strongly recommend using them.*

Bob Taylor  
Verbena Volunteer Fire & Rescue



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# BUDGET FRIENDLY

## NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

Mertz Fire Apparatus has built skid units up to 1,500 gallons, with pumps from all Fire Pump Manufacturers, which includes Hale, Waterous, and W.S. Darley. Mertz Fire Apparatus also provides pumps by Hypro and Udor. Vanguard electric start engines are featured on all pumps and Honda engines are available. The Mertz 16V1550 Series pump system will pump up to 170 gpm at 170 psi and will pump in excess of 50 gpm @150 psi.

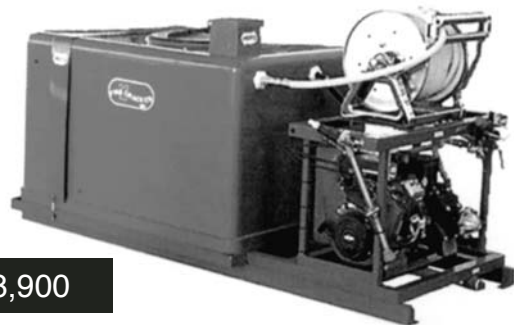
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### FD 18V 300 L

This is the 18 hp version of the famous "FireCracker." With pressures of over 500 psi this is the top of the line "Wildland" firefighter. Standard tanks up to 300 gallon, but larger optional tanks are available. Engines from various engine manufacturers are also available. Optional foam systems can be installed.

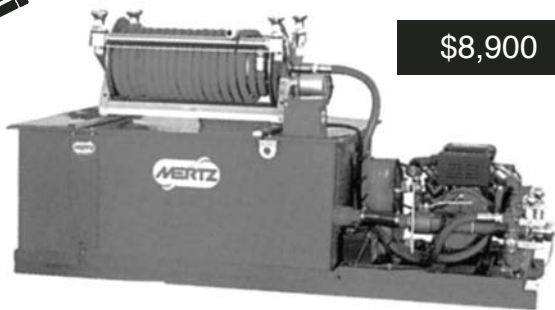
Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI  
Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM  
Maximum Speed: 550 RPM  
Number of Cylinders: 4

#### FD-18V-300 L



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Stats	150G	200G	250G	300G	400G
Height	39.5"	44.5"	51.5"	56.5"	52.25"
Length	91"	91"	91"	91"	98.5"
Width	43"	43"	43"	43"	64"
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Wt. Wet	2075#	2550#	3000#	3985#	4325#

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# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, hosted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Workshop on February 20th. The workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Alma Christian from the Department of Homeland Security.

Brady Creel, Linden VFD, Marengo County, was honored as Alabama's oldest active firefighter by "Positively Alabama" on a Montgomery TV station on January 26th. Mr. Creel responds to calls at 2:00 am or anytime day or night. He was honored by both city and county officials for his 54 years of dedicated service to his community. Mr. Creel served as Linden's police chief, fire chief, and on various city boards and committees.

Congratulations to Roy Waite who was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Thomasville VFD, Clarke County. Mr. Waite has also assumed the post of Clarke County EMA Director.

Congratulations to Ronald Dingman who was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Creola VFD, Mobile County.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, hosted a Community Gospel singing as a fund raiser in January. Wal-Mart in Thomasville presented the department with a matching grant of \$750.

Barbour County Fire and EMS personnel hosted a FEMA Grant Workshop for the Wire Grass area of the state on March 11th.

Killen VFD, Lauderdale County, hosted an Arson Detection Class on December 3rd & 4th.

Volunteer Firefighters and citizens from Cleburne and St Clair Counties and the City of Dora helped "Volunteers of America", an organization working with hurricane victims in Alabama and Mississippi.

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, hosted a NIMS IS-700 training class for Fire, Police & EMS on February 18th.

The 28th annual Awards Banquet was hosted by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments on January 21st with approximately 350 in attendance. Congratulations to the firefighters and supporters who were honored with the following awards: Small Business Appreciation Award, Rogers High School Child Nutrition Program; Large Business Appreciation Award, International Operating Engineers Local 320 of Florence; North Alabama State Fair Parking Attendant Award, Chief Robert & Mrs. Lynn Smith, Oakland VFD; Alabama Forestry Commission Smokey Bear Award, Rogersville VFD; EMS Star of Life Award, Chief Trent Putman, Killen VFD; Individual Fire Prevention Award, Tim Chaney, Zip City VFD; Ladies Auxiliary Individual of the Year, Caroline Robertson, Killen VFD; Fire Chief of the Year, Chief Lex Moody, Mid-Lauderdale VFD; People's Choice Award, Center Star and Rogersville VFD; Rookie of the Year, Tim Burbank, Greenhill VFD; Firefighter of the Year, Chris Smith, Waterloo VFD and his wife was presented a plaque recognizing her support.

Conecuh County Firefighters annual Awards Banquet was held January 14th. Congratulations to the firefighters who were honored as Firefighter of the Year by their respective department: Dudley Bullock, Beat Eight VFD; Scott Pate, Belleville VFD; Joe Burt, Bermuda VFD; Jimmy Rhodes, Brooklyn VFD; Tommy Kendrick, Brownville VFD; Arby Lee Rankins, Burnt Corn VFD; Leon Jackson, Castleberry VFD; Joshua & Nicholas Klaetsch, Conecuh Rescue; Mike Bethune, Evergreen VFD; Aubrey Padgett, Flat Rock VFD; Levon Likely & Eloise Holms, Johnsonville VFD; Brandy Wiggins, Lenox VFD; Juston T. Dees, Nymph VFD; Marilyn White, Paul VFD; Robert Thames, Pine Orchard VFD; Georgia English, Range VFD; Sandra Blackmon, Repton VFD; Johnny Bartlett, Sandcutt VFD; and Harry Pipkin, Skinnerton VFD. John "Dudley" Bullock as honored with the Lois E. Reeves Memorial Award.



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# DISTRICT 6

## Departments Featured

*Compiled by District 6 Director Chauncey Wood*

### DALE COUNTY

## Ariton Teen Honored For Saving Man's Life

*by Sarah Gilbert, The Southern Star, Ozark, Alabama*

Justin "Biscuit" McGee is a "remarkable young man who did a remarkable deed", pulling an elderly man from a burning house despite being shot at by the person he was trying to rescue. McGee, 18, is a junior at Ariton High School who can now say he is the only person in Alabama to be presented the Medal of Valor by Dale County Sheriff Bryant Mixon.

"It's my job to save his life", McGee said of K. T. Green, the elderly man he rescued from a burning home. "I'm glad I can be a part of a community service."

Justin is a volunteer with the Ariton Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. He was passing by Green's home about 8 pm December 15, 2004, when he spotted fire coming from the roof of the residence near the chimney. He called in the fire to the Ariton Fire Department, then ran to the front door of the home to see if anyone was inside.

That's when Green got his pistol and began firing at McGee. Green's home had recently been broken into several times and he mistook McGee for a burglar. "He was unaware that his home was on fire," Mixon said.

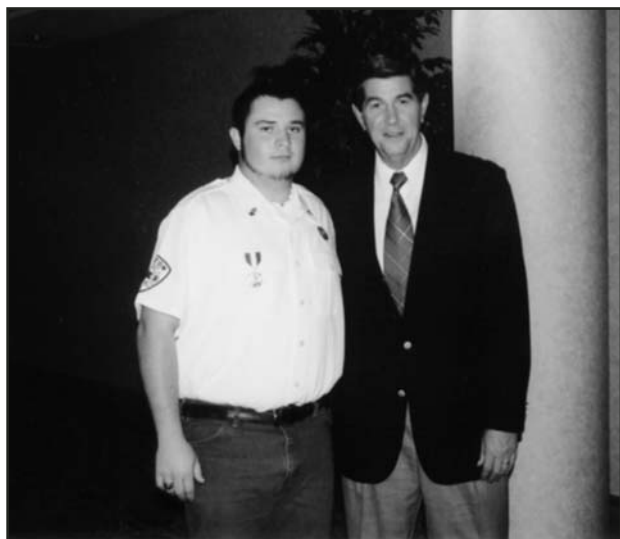
McGee ran for cover, but again approached the front door to attempt to rescue the homeowner. Finally, he was able to pull Green to safety, but the elderly man was overcome with smoke. He was taken to Dale Medical Center for treatment and has since recovered.

"He really went the extra mile," Mixon said. It is remarkable that he risked life and limb to save Mr. Green, even while he was being fired at by the person he's trying to save."

In addition to the Sheriff's Medal of Valor, McGee was presented a plaque, recognizing his heroic deed. He was also given a bullet-proof vest by the Alabama Rescue Squad Association presented by Chauncey Wood.



*Justin "Biscuit" McGee*



*Justin "Biscuit" McGee & Governor Bob Riley*



*Left to Right: Ariton Rescue Captain Ronnie Danner, Justin "Biscuit" McGee, and District 6 Director Chauncey Wood.*

## ICE Saves Lives

by Lauren D. Champlin

WICKSBURG, HOUSTON COUNTY - Ice cools beverages, soothes aching muscles and can also save your life

A program called In Case of Emergency is a way to provide emergency contact information on your cell phone. The Wicksburg Fire & Rescue department launched an ICE campaign earlier this month and encourages everyone to take this simple step.

To put an ICE entry into your cell phone's address book, name the entry ICE and add the person's number. Fire Chief Paul Grimes said to notify the person you list as your contact so they will be aware of what to do, especially if they need to know allergies, prescriptions, blood type and other medical information.

Grimes said seconds are critical in an accident or medical emergency, and ICE can put EMTs or hospital staff in touch with someone to answer questions about medical history. He said the department has responded to calls where the person is too injured to talk or unconscious, and any type of communication would have helped.

"We need to know all that we can as soon as possible," Grimes said.

The department is trying to spread awareness about the program by sending letters to Wicksburg High School and putting posters in gas stations.

"Most of the kids now have cell phones," said firefighter Baxter Ethridge, about getting the high school involved.

Getting cell-phone companies to support the program could be another option in the future, but Grimes said the main issue is to take steps for your safety now by putting ICE on your phone.

ICE was started in 2004 by Bob Brotchie, a paramedic in Cambridge, England.

In a press release, Brotchie said, "It's not a difficult thing to do. As many people say they carry mobile phones in case of an emergency, it seems natural this information should be kept there."



Photo by Danny Tindell. Dothan Eagle. Wicksburg Fire Chief Paul Grimes says the program called ICE can provide emergency contact information on your cell phone and help save lives.

## Cowarts Breaks Ground For Much Needed Fire Station Addition

by Lisa T. Mathis, Progress Editorial Assistant

A groundbreaking ceremony in Houston County for the addition to the Cowarts volunteer fire station was held January 22. On hand for the ceremony were members of the Cowarts Volunteer Fire Department, Cowarts Mayor Henry Johnston and councilmen, and Houston County District 2 Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove.

A new facility has been needed for a time. The existing 40x80 facility was acquired in 1978, when the department was formed, and is no longer big enough to house their fire apparatus.

"We only have two bays now. With the add-on, we will have room to park six additional pieces of equipment," said Cowarts Fire Chief Roger Nall.

The new 65x80 foot building will enable the department to house their existing equipment and also have room for future equipment.

"This expansion is for future equipment that we will have to acquire to keep up with the fire protection of the growing community of Cowarts – businesses and residential," stated Nall.

Rankin Construction Company began construction on the building Monday. It should take approximately three months to



Ground was recently broken for the Cowarts volunteer fire station. The ceremony was held January 22. From left are Gerald Bagwell, assistant fire chief; Tommy Still, Terry Marine with Branson Nall on his shoulders; Randy Roland, councilman; Brent Skipper; Michael Chancey; Bobby Snellgrove, commissioner; Roger Nall, fire chief; Don Beasley, councilman; Mayor Henry Johnston; Bill Smith; Scott Gilbert; Morris Jinks, aptain; Jansen Sowell; Jonathan Nall, captain; Joe Lyons; Eddie Clifton and Chase Lyons.

complete. The strickly volunteer department has 14 firefighters, and they average 60-65 calls a year. But last year was a record breaking year with 103 calls. Nall attributes this to business and residential growth.



# Ariton Volunteer Fire Department

On February 6, 2006, the Ariton Fire & Rescue Squad welcomed AAVFD Second Vice President William Neal, District 6 Director Chauncey Wood, and his wife Tina to their monthly meeting at Fort Wilson Fire and Rescue Building. Mr. Neal gave a very educational and beneficial speech to all that were present. Tina snapped the displayed pictures of Ariton's personnel, ambulances and fire trucks.



Members of the Ariton Volunteer Fire Department

Course. Today all our members have up-to-date training. The squad purchased a new 1968 van ambulance using grant monies and donations from citizens of Ariton and surrounding communities.

Ariton Fire and Rescue started out in Ariton City Hall next to the Ariton Medical Clinic. In the year of 1978, the department moved to the New City Hall and Fire and Rescue Building. In 1999, Fort Wilson was purchased by the City of Ariton and the department moved to the old National Guard armory. We are very proud of our building, which has enough room for our two fire trucks (1,000-gallon pumpers), one brush truck, two rescue ambulances and sufficient equipment to meet the needs of our community.



District 6 Director Chauncey Wood, Chief Aubrey Peters, EMT Ronnie Danner & Second Vice President William Neal.

Ariton Fire Department was started in the early 1940's with very little equipment, such as only one hand-pulled manual pumper water gun. Later in the early 1950's the town acquired a fire truck from the government. In 1964 the town purchased our first new 1964 Ford Engine fire truck.

In 1968, the Ariton Rescue Squad was organized under the leadership of new Ariton Mayor Billy C. Herring. We started with 23 members, who only had the Red Cross First Aid Training

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Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
500 Gallon Tank, 40 Gallons Foam  
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**1991 E-One Cyclone Pumper**  
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On-Board Foam System  
**\$99,000**



**1990 FMC Pumper**  
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750 Gallon Poly Tank  
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**1977 Chevrolet Walk-In Rescue**  
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**1989 E-One 95' Tower**  
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**1994 Anderson Rescue**  
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Detroit Diesel, Allison Automatic  
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500 Gallon Steel Tank  
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# Alabama Forestry Commission Provides AAVFD Funding for 2006 Wildland Fire Prevention Grant Program

Each year many people visit their County Health Departments or go to their personal physician's office to get flu shots to prevent getting the flu. Preventing illness that can harm your health or take your life is a smart move. Just as we guard our health with health prevention programs we can guard our health as firefighters with fire prevention programs. In the past four years 175 Departments and Associations have taken advantage of the Wildland Fire Prevention Grants. However, that is a small percentage of 1000 departments across our state. If your Department or County Association has not applied for the Wildland Fire Prevention Grants, we urge you to do so as the dead-line is May 31, 2006. Contact your county president or the AAVFD office @ 1-888-972-2833 for the 2006 Wildland Grant application. One major change from our applications in the past. To qualify for the 2006 Wildland Fire Prevention Grants your department MUST be using the NIMS system. Each fire chief will be required to sign a statement in your grant application to confirm the use of this system in your department.

If you have any questions regarding the 2006 Wildland Grant Policies contact the AAVFD office 1-888-972-2833 or President Johnny Alberson at 205-459-2688 or Johnny Dennis at 256-766-4707



*Assistant State Forester Richard Cumbie presents check to AAVFD President Johnny Alberson.*

## Alabama Firefighter Needs Help!

Less than 10 days after his birthday, Josh "Tiny" Aldridge was involved in a hunting accident. While unloading his rifle, it accidentally fired and removed about 4" of his left bicep. Quick thinking by his friend, also a firefighter, stopped the bleeding and rushed Josh to Tallassee Community Hospital. After he was stabilized he was immediately taken to UAB. At first the doctors thought that they could possibly save his arm but after test, the diagnosis was made to amputate which was done on January 25th.

A member of the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department in Elmore County, Tiny has proven to be a great firefighter and always ready to answer the call to duty. Now, we all need to help one of our own.

Tiny has a wife and 2 small children, and they do not have insurance to cover the expenses of medical care. His wife was just hired at a local plant but the waiting period before the insurance would be in effect had not been met. You see, Josh got his nickname "Tiny" quite the contrary. Tiny is 25 years old, 6'4" and is a gentle giant with a heart of gold and devoted to his family and the fire department.

Please help this young family in their time of need. If you could find it in your heart to make any contributions, please send them to:

Friendship Volunteer Fire Department - For Tiny  
4544 Friendship Road  
Tallassee, AL 36078

For more information or questions, please call 334-283-6463  
Thank you for your help,

Steve Dennis, Chief  
Friendship Volunteer Fire Department

## On the Lighter Side...

### The Perfect Squelch



Enormously proud of her membership in an expensive country club, young Mrs. Hudson invited some friends for a round of golf. As they played the course, she described the club's advantages – its wonderful pool, its marvelous tennis courts, its perfectly manicured greens. She named the club's most impressive members, then went on to glow verbally over such details as the thickness of the club's carpets and the spaciousness of its ballroom.

Finally, in a burst of appreciation of all these blessings of wealth, Mrs. Hudson voiced the startling query, "I wonder what poor people do on a beautiful day like this?"

In the embarrassed silence that followed, a young voice behind her said, "We caddie."



## 2006 AD&D INSURANCE ENROLLMENT REMINDER

The new year for AD&D insurance enrollments began on January 1, 2006, but it's not too late to send your renewals/applications to the Montgomery office. Policy costs remain the same: \$12.00 per year for \$10,000 coverage or \$20.00 per year for coverage of \$20,000. Coverage begins at the time your application reaches the office.

We urge departments to consider all that your firefighters contribute to your community at no charge. This benefit can be small compensation for the risk that they take to protect the lives and property of their neighbors.

If you need additional applications, contact the office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833.



## 2006 ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Each year the Association presents the Firefighter of the Year and the Sherry Garner Memorial award honoring a male and a female firefighter who exemplifies outstanding achievements in the fire service and their local community.



The nominated individual must be a member of a volunteer fire department that is a current member of AAVFD. No form is required. Simply recommend the firefighter and tell why you think that individual should be recognized. Letters from others recognizing their accomplishments can also be included.

Nominations must be mailed to the AAVFD office no later than May 30th. The Awards will be presented at the annual conference in Bessemer in August.

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# F-1 Tornado Destroys Belleville Fire Department

*Article by Chief Sid Lambert – Photos by District 7 Director Daniel Day*

The Belleville Community in Conecuh County was struck by a killer F-1 tornado on January 13, 2006 at approximately 10:30 am. Chief Sid Lambert and his wife, Veronica, were 10 miles away in Evergreen when alerted to the touchdown with a possible fatality in the community. Assistant Chief Michael Lambert secured the fatality location while Chief Lambert assumed Incident Command.

Conecuh and Monroe County EMA set up the



a charter member of the Belleville VFD and served the community for 14 years before retiring. Six homes and buildings were destroyed and 40 were damaged. Among the destroyed buildings was the Belleville VFD fire station, with extensive damage to both pumper and support vehicles. All furnishings and financial, personnel, and training records were also destroyed.

Mobile Communications Bus, and were joined by volunteer firefighters from Conecuh, Monroe and Escambia County. Also providing traffic control and security were the Alabama State Troopers and the Conecuh and Monroe County Sheriff's department.

Search and Rescue teams canvassed the community confirming that there was one fatality and no injuries. The fatality, Betty Jo Williams, was



A clean-up day was sponsored by the Belleville VFD and WPGG 93.3 radio station two weeks later. Over 250 volunteers from all over the state and out of state were on hand to help. Ninety percent of Belleville is as back to normal as is possible. We extend a very special THANK YOU to all who participated or donated to Belleville Volunteer Fire Department's comeback.





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# News From Morgan County

by Marion Studer, Lacey's Spring V.F.D.



The Morgan County Association had a Toy Drive in November of 2005. All 22 Volunteer Fire Departments participated. With the help of local businesses, media and the citizens of Morgan County, we were able to fill 2 semi trailers with food and toys for the Ocean Springs Fire Department in Ocean Springs Mississippi.

This small town was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. On the 9th of December, several of our Association members drove to Ocean Springs and delivered all the toys and food. We had enough food to give 100 firefighters/Emt's and police officers a good Christmas dinner, and the toys were a welcomed sight for those parents who had lost everything not to mention the children.

We were also able to take 22 church pews, pulpit and choir seats to a small church in Moss Point Mississippi with the help

of a Decatur Church who donated their used church furniture.

It was truly an eye opening experience. Several of us went to Biloxi and Gulfport Mississippi after leaving Ocean Springs. There are no words to explain what we saw. The beautiful antebellum homes that once lined the streets of Gulfport are no longer there. Left behind were only empty lots with no trees. Most businesses disappeared leaving only empty shells.

The debris field is enormous and cleanup, though underway, will take months, if not years. I told a reporter that I had the same feeling of despair when I stood at Ground Zero in New York City; so tragic and sad. But with time and a lot of patience and hard work, life will spring back to life. Life goes on, but we shall never forget. God Bless you all and keep you safe.



## Thank You To AAVFD Honor Guard

Honor Guard members James Chancey, Wayne Cost, Jerry Jackson and Alan Reeser were an honored sight for the family of Crawford Calhoun. Randolph County Past President Jim Morris stated, "I cannot tell you how much the family appreciated your caring touch and the symbol that you represented to the community. It's nice to know your family will be treated just like you would and by firefighters from another area that don't even know you.... A Sincere Thanks!"

Mr. Calhoun's daughters, Janice & Tracy, stated, "We appreciate these fine, thoughtful and caring individuals. It takes a certain type of people to be able and want to do this service for Firemen's families. May God bless you as you continue this worthwhile program."

The family of Firefighter James Milburn Reece recognized Honor Guard members Reggie Sprinkle, Dustin Lovelady, D. H. Oden, Tim Williams, Tommy MacPherson and Steve Henderson.

"What an awesome demonstration of Brotherhood! What an impressive ceremony! What a fine-looking group! It takes special people to be willing to sacrifice so much and risk your lives to be a volunteer fire fighter and a member of the Honor Guard for people you don't even know. May God bless you all!"



# AAVFD 2006 Conference

August 4-5, 2006  
Bessemer, Alabama

## Ad/Vendor Registration Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Advertisement in the AAVFD Conference program.

Full Page Ad	\$250.00	x	_____	=	_____
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	x	_____	=	_____
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	x	_____	=	_____
Business Card Ad	\$75.00	x	_____	=	_____

Please submit camera ready if possible:

Deadline May 30, 2006

2. Vendor Area (Please note for table and/or truck)

10 x 10 sq. ft., 1 table	\$100.00	Table _____	Truck _____	=	_____
10 x 20 sq. Ft., 2 tables	\$200.00	Table _____	Truck _____	=	_____

3. Pre-registration cost per person, \$20.00 (adult or child).

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Additional Comments. If you need electrical hookup or other items may be at additional cost.

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Gold	\$2,000.00	_____	One table, four attendees, and half page ad.
Silver	\$1,000.00	_____	One table, two attendees, and quarter page ad.
Bronze	\$600.00	_____	One table, two attendees, and business card ad

Submit your form and payment to:  
District II Association of Volunteer Fire  
Departments  
1298 Forrester Rd.  
Jasper, Alabama 35504

*We are looking for SPONSORS to help make this the best AAVFD Conference ever. If a vendor would like to SPONSOR a special event contact me. Please check with the manufacturers you represent and see if they would possibly support you in being a SPONSOR for this event.*

# AAVFD 2006 Conference

August 4-5, 2006, Bessemer, Alabama

## Competition Events

Water on the Roof • Air Pack Relay • Hose Lay II

## Host Motel Information

District II Volunteer Fire Department Association is hosting the 2006 Annual AAVFD Conference on August 4-5, 2006 in Bessemer, AL. Listed below are the host hotels. More conference information will follow:

### Hampton Inn

Located: 4910 Civic Lane  
Bessemer, Alabama  
35022  
Telephone: 205-425-2010  
Fax: 205-425-1630  
Avail/Price: King/Double @  
84.00 plus tax  
Blocked 74  
Suite @\$99.00 plus  
tax  
Blocked 10  
Cutoff Date: July 1, 2006  
Regular rate after  
this date

### Sleep Inn

Located: 1259 Greenmor Dr.  
Bessemer, Alabama  
35022  
Telephone: 205-424-0000  
Fax: 205-424-1971  
Avail/Price: King/Double @  
69.99 plus tax  
Blocked 40  
Cutoff Date: July 1, 2006  
Regular rate after  
this date

### Comfort Inn

Located: 5051 Academy Lane  
Bessemer, Alabama  
35022  
Telephone: 205-428-3999  
Fax: 205-428-8053  
Avail/Price: \$65.00-\$99.00 plus  
tax  
Blocked 13  
Cutoff Date: July 1, 2006  
Regular rate after  
this date

When you call the hotel specify the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) group rate. Be sure and make your hotel reservations because they fill up quick around VisionLand. The attendee rate is \$20.00 per person before July 1, 1006. After this date and onsite will be \$30.00. Address for attendee registration: District II Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, P.O. Box 6, Remlap, Alabama 35133.

## CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Please make your check payable to  
District II AAVFD

P.O. Box 6, Remlap, AL 35133

\$20 per person. After July 1, 2006 and onsite registration will be \$30.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Our Fire Department is \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT name of each individual

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# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

**Name/Rank:** Chief Henry James Combs, Volunteer  
**Department:** Watts VFD, Watts KY  
**Date of Death:** 9/4/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died when his POV left the roadway and flipped en route to fire station for a reported residential structure fire.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Robert Lee Pauley, Volunteer  
**Department:** Lookout VFD, Lookout CA  
**Date of Death:** 9/11/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died responding to traffic accident in his POV when it left the roadway, hit a power pole and burned. Firefighter Pauley was ejected from vehicle.

**Name/Rank:** Asst Chief James Edward Scott, Volunteer  
**Department:** Hamilton Volunteer Fire/EMS, Hamilton NC  
**Date of Death:** 9/16/05  
**Cause of Death:** Asst Chief Scott had been standing by at fire station the night before for storms in the area. He responded to an alarm around 1700 hrs. The next morning he had a fatal heart attack while driving to work.

**Name/Rank:** Chief Edward King, Volunteer  
**Department:** Reno County Fire District No 7, Turon KS  
**Date of Death:** 9/21/05  
**Cause of Death:** Two fire trucks were responding to a controlled field burn that had gotten out of hand when they collided head-on, killing the driver of one. Smoke from the blaze had reduced visibility over the roadway, contributing to the crash.

**Name/Rank:** Fire Police Captain Peter E. Hotaling, Sr., Volunteer  
**Department:** Claverack Fire District-A.B.Shaw Fire Co, Claverack NY  
**Date of Death:** 10/4/05  
**Cause of Death:** Began feeling ill while performing maintenance during weekly maintenance and training drill at firehouse and died of apparent cardiac problem after being transported to hospital.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Paul Herbert Thorne, Sr., Volunteer  
**Department:** Forestville VFD, Upper Marlboro MA  
**Date of Death:** 10/23/05  
**Cause of Death:** Collapsed at fire station while setting up for department activity and passed away 2 days later from cerebrovascular accident. He had not responded to any alarm calls in the preceding 24 hours.

**Name/Rank:** Lt Wendell Jeffery, Career  
**Department:** Memphis FD, Memphis TN  
**Date of Death:** 10/24/05  
**Cause of Death:** After responding to multiple alarms, he collapsed at the station from a cause still to be determined and died after being transported to hospital.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Robert Gallardy, Career  
**Department:** Altoona FD, Altoona PA  
**Date of Death:** 10/25/05  
**Cause of Death:** Suffered burns over large part of his body, including face and respiratory tract, while leading training exercise at PA State Fire Academy as Adjunct Instructor. He succumbed to his injuries after being taken to Lehigh Valley Burn Center.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Franklin W. Eubanks, Volunteer  
**Department:** Arlington VFD, Beaumont MS  
**Date of Death:** 10/25/05  
**Cause of Death:** Collapsed at scene of grass fire and died at hospital from cause still to be determined.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Walter L. Sykes, Jr., Volunteer  
**Department:** Lewiston VFD, Lewiston CA  
**Date of Death:** 10/26/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died of heart attack while operating at scene of residential chimney fire.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Timothy E. Parsell, Volunteer  
**Department:** Collins Volunteer Fire Company # 1, Collins NY  
**Date of Death:** 11/4/05  
**Cause of Death:** Preparing to leave his residence in response to alarm call for EMS incident, he began to feel ill. His department responded, provided BLS and transported to hospital. While en route, Parsell went into code and all attempts to revive him failed. ER doctor stated cause of death was likely major heart attack, pending further investigation.

**Name/Rank:** Asst Chief James C. Webb, Volunteer  
**Department:** Bynum VFD, Courtland MS  
**Date of Death:** 11/5/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died responding to structure fire when tanker he was driving left the road and overturned.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Eduardo Teran, Career  
**Department:** City of Riverside FD, Riverside CA  
**Date of Death:** 11/5/05  
**Cause of Death:** Collapsed and went into cardiac arrest while engaged in firefighter activities immediately following residential structure fire. Cause of death is pending results of autopsy.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Michael J. Bevans, Career  
**Department:** North Little Rock FD, North Little Rock AR  
**Date of Death:** 11/6/05  
**Cause of Death:** Strained his left shoulder while loading patient into ambulance on 6/26/04. Capt Bevans suffered complications as a result of the surgery. His subsequent cardiac arrest was due to those surgery complications.

**Name/Rank:** Engineer Timmy Shane Hardy, Career  
**Department:** Neosho FD, Neosho MO  
**Date of Death:** 11/7/05  
**Cause of Death:** Fatally injured while accessing one of the grain bins at wheat hull bin fire. Details of accident are under investigation.

**Name/Rank:** Chief Brian J. Pugh, Career  
**Department:** Port of Portland Airport Fire Rescue, Portland OR  
**Date of Death:** 11/8/05  
**Cause of Death:** Suffered stroke at Fire Chief's Conference, died from complications two days later.

**Name/Rank:** Chief Kenneth D. Mitchell, Volunteer  
**Department:** Tull VFD, Tull AR  
**Date of Death:** 11/10/05  
**Cause of Death:** Discovered in distress by emergency personnel on scene of working residential structure fire. Care was initiated, and he was pronounced dead at hospital.

**Name/Rank:** Chief Max Willard, Volunteer  
**Department:** Oakwood VFD, Oakwood VA  
**Date of Death:** 11/12/05  
**Cause of Death:** Chief Willard responded to brush fire that quickly grew into several hundred acres and involved multiple fire departments to bring under control. He was seen entering the woods alone with a fire rake late Saturday afternoon and was not heard from again. A search was begun at first light, and he was discovered at approximately 0830 hrs. There was reported to be burn injuries on the body, but whether the fire, smoke inhalation or something else was cause of death is under investigation.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Kevin J. Foster, Volunteer  
**Department:** Ellerslie VFD, Ellerslie GA  
**Date of Death:** 11/12/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died of blunt force trauma to head and chest en route to traffic accident when engine he was driving went off roadway and struck a tree. Foster was wearing a seatbelt.

**Name/Rank:** Fire Police Chief James E. Lafferty, Sr., Volunteer  
**Department:** Union City VFD, Union City PA  
**Date of Death:** 11/14/05  
**Cause of Death:** Collapsed while controlling traffic on scene of structure fire. Despite care initiated at scene, Chief Lafferty was pronounced dead at hospital.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Clint Dewayne Rice, Volunteer  
**Department:** Carlton VFD, Carlton TX  
**Date of Death:** 11/22/05  
**Cause of Death:** While providing mutual aid at large grass fire, Rice lost control of tractor-trailer water tender he was driving, causing truck to overturn. Rice was ejected from truck when it flipped and was pronounced dead at scene. He was not wearing a seat belt.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Charles McKenzie, Volunteer  
**Department:** West Van Lear FD, West Van Lear KY  
**Date of Death:** 11/23/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died on scene when he exited the tanker he was operating and it jumped into gear while pumping, rolled forward pinning him beneath apparatus.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter/EMT Robert Timothy Staepel, Career  
**Department:** Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Philadelphia Federal FD, Philadelphia PA  
**Date of Death:** 11/25/05  
**Cause of Death:** Participated in live fire training during work shift 11/21/05, suffered heart attack next day, and died 11/25/05.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Christopher James Roy, Career  
**Department:** Calera Fire/Rescue, Calera AL  
**Date of Death:** 11/28/05  
**Cause of Death:** Apparatus he was driving when responding to medical call collided with tractor trailer truck. Firefighter Roy was extricated from vehicle, flown to UAB trauma center where he died shortly after of injuries sustained from accident.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Richard McCurley, Career  
**Department:** New Orleans FD, New Orleans LA  
**Date of Death:** 12/02/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died from injuries received when fire apparatus he was riding in was involved in vehicle accident while responding to reported gas leak.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Chelsea Lyn Garvin, Volunteer  
**Department:** Fish River-Marlow VFD, Summerdale AL  
**Date of Death:** 12/10/05  
**Cause of Death:** Three firefighters were returning from a parade stand-by duty on fire department watercraft. The watercraft collided with another vessel. Firefighter Garvin drowned.

**Name/Rank:** Capt Chad Ernest Wessels, Volunteer  
**Department:** Briggs VFD, Briggs TX  
**Date of Death:** 12/11/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died en route to structure fire when he lost control of the 1,200 gallon water tender that he was driving, which left the roadway, struck a fence and trees and burned. He remained in the fire truck but was not wearing a seat belt.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Michael A. Hart, Career  
**Department:** Elkins FD, Elkins WV  
**Date of Death:** 12/20/05  
**Cause of Death:** Died returning home from teaching a Firefighter Level One Class when his truck was struck by a semi-truck which veered into his lane. He was also a volunteer Captain at the Belington Fire Department, WV.

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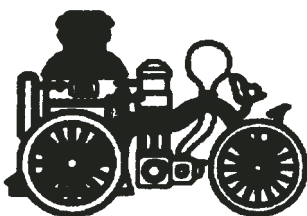
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Golf Shirt with Collar \$22

Shipping charges will be added. Golf shirts come in burgundy, forest green, navy/white, burgundy/white, straw & stone/black in L, XL, XXL and XXXL.



## FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM SUPPORTS SURVIVORS

The Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) increased to \$283,385.00 as of October 1, 2005. The government adjusts the rate annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index. Congress created this program to support the survivors of public safety officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.



## THE BELL TOLLED

Jessie O'Neal Coker, Equality VFD, Coosa County, passed away October 15, 2005. Jessie led the department as Chief for four years, working to help the department grow and improve. He stepped down in January 2005 while fighting a terminal illness. Besides his love of the fire department, one of his passions was fishing, and he and his wife, Janet, loved animals, especially their horses, sometimes participating in the Wagon Train Trail Rides. Jessie was always ready to visit and tell stories of his growing-up years and is deeply missed by the Equality Volunteer Fire Fighters.

David McDaniel, River Oaks VFD, Dallas County, passed away November 25, 2005.

Chelsea Garvin, Fish River VFD, Baldwin County, died as a result of injuries sustained in a boating accident that occurred in the Line of Duty on December 10, 2005.

Chief Johnny W. Faulkner, Henderson VFD, Pike County, passed away January 29, 2006.

Crawford Calhoun, Bethel East VFD, Randolph County, passed away at the age of 95 on November 26, 2005. He was one of the founders of the department and was chief for many years.

Dustin Jones, Moulton VFD, Lawrence County, died in the Line-of-Duty on fire scene when a wall collapsed on him on February 21, 2006.

Lloyd McCulloch, Moulton VFD, Lawrence County, died in the Line-of-Duty on fire scene when a wall collapsed on him on February 21, 2006.

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night: Johnny Alberson – (205) 459-2688, Steve Dennis – (334) 283-2110, William Neal – (334) 335-3643, or Lawrence Huffman – (256) 446-9813.

A copy of the booklet "Death In Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office.

1-888-972-2833 or [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org).



**About The Volunteer:** *The Volunteer* is issued 4 times a year: in Jan, April, Jul, and Oct. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery no later than the 15th of the month before publication.

**Articles & Information:** Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections, and style.

**Other AAVFD Information:** ALL Membership information, Insurance information, changes of address, and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery office.

### AAVFD Officers:

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1st VP Steve Dennis  
2nd VP William A. Neal  
3rd VP Lawrence Huffman  
Secretary Mary Jane Sells  
Treasurer Gary Cobb

### Newsletter Editor:

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Office hours are Monday - Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



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